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The Kansas News.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1857.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher on the Commercial Pressure.

On Sunday evening, 27th ult., Rev. Henry Ward Beecher preached a sermon to an immense audience in the Plymouth church, Brooklyn, on the "Lessons of the Times," suggested by the present commercial pressure. The discourse, the New York Post says, was one of great power, and produced a profound impression. Mr. Beecher's text was from Matthew xvi., 2, 3:

"When it is evening, we say, it will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather to-day; for the sky is red and lowering. Oh, ye hypocrites! ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

I have already, this morning, taken occasion of the serious alarm and trouble which exist in the commercial affairs of our country to address some remarks to Christians for their encouragement, comfort and guidance. I propose this evening to look at the subject in relation to good morals and to the welfare of the community.

1. It is remarkable to see how much suffering comes upon men, not by any disease, but simply by difficulty of commercial breathing.

If the human body is stricken with fever or palsy; if cholera or plague attack it; or if the sword or bullet smite it; or if some secret wound draw out drop by drop the blood, we do not marvel. There is a cause adequate to the effect. But if you put a man into an exhausted receiver, under a bell-glass, without a particle of air, the mischief is just the same. No organ suffers, no tissue is lacerated, no muscle crushed, no part is poisoned, none wasted or drained of its vital fluids, and yet the man effectually dies.

The course of affairs among us has not been disturbed by the natural invasions of war. The harvests have not failed, and famine has not reached out its gaunt hands among us. Disease has not striven in our midst, nor has industry ceased for lack either of legitimate enterprise or proper matter for enterprise.

And yet this great nation, in full health, with uncounted abundance of harvests, in its young manhood, stalwart, eager, hopeful, is suddenly brought up, and trembles and staggers as if it would lie down in faintness. What is the matter?

It is the want of air. The city cannot breathe. What then is this commercial air which is so needful to life and activity? It is the faith of man in man. It is mutual trust. It is confidence. This is the air which commerce breathes. And now, in our midst, although there have been indiscretions, there have been none which the country could not bear almost without a check.

Men speak of over-stocking the market, of over-manufacturing, of over-importations and of extravagance of various kinds. I do not say that there have not been mistakes in these respects, and great mistakes. But I do say that we are too strong a people to be brought into such confusion by mere mistakes of this kind. This country has such vigor and such elements of power, that surface mistakes will never damage it seriously. There is money enough, property enough, the need for goods and manufacturing, but men are all paralyzed to-day chiefly by fear of each other. Men look at the best concerns, as in times of siege they look at bombshells, expecting that every one will burst, and that the only difference between one and another is in the length of the fuse, and the time it will take to burn out.

But why should there be this sudden cessation of confidence? You trusted those men yesterday to go around the globe with your money, whom you will not trust to carry it from the bank to the store! No change has come over these men. They are just as honest now as then. Their morals are as good. Their business is as safe. On whatever foundation you stood five months ago, the materials of that foundation remain untouched to-day. Your ships are there. Your goods are there. Your shops are there. Your neighbors are not niggards nor simulating friends. They are the same men that you always knew, just as good, just as bad, unchanged either for better or for worse. But the city is under a spell. No one will take things to be as they seem. No one trusts. Every one doubts and fears.

Now, it is to the last degree important to inquire, why has confidence gone, and gone so suddenly and completely? Yesterday it blossomed like flowers over the field; to-day frost has fallen, and all are black and drooping! What wind has sent that withering frost?

In reply to this inquiry, I would say that in part this panic of fear is without proper grounds. It is the over-action of causes, of which I shall speak, which are real. But we have not stopped at the legitimate potency of those causes, but allowed our imagination to carry our fear headlong, and with it our confidence in each other.

Merchants are now like men awakened in the night by the attack of an enemy. All scream and run, one crying out one thing, and another another, all stumbling over each other with insane fear. Now there may be a cause for some fear—for some precaution, for some earnest defense.

But there is, and there has been no cause for the excessive reaction from hope which has taken place. The roots of business are sound. There never was upon the whole, more health with so much life. And hundreds of men will be upset by nothing, but because they are run against by frightened men. Hundreds of men will go down, and lose years of toil, and the fruit of honorable industry, for no adequate reason except that men are scared, and in their unreasonable fright, like persons in a crowd, they tread each other down. It is a shame.

I am not in business. I have not one penny invested in stocks or goods, and never had. If the market touches the sun, or goes to the bottom of the slough of de-

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THE KANZAS NEWS.

"THE PEOPLE ALWAYS CONQUER."

By P. B. PLUMB.

EMPORIA, KANZAS, OCTOBER 31, 1857.

VOL. I—No. 18.

JOB PRINTING.

The office of THE KANZAS NEWS is furnished with a complete assortment of the newest styles of Type, Borders, Flourishes, Cuts, Cards, Fancy Papers, Colored Inks, Bronze, &c., enabling the proprietor to print CIRCULARS, CARDS, CERTIFICATES or STOCK, DEEDS, POSTERS, and all other kinds of JOB PRINTING, in a manner unsurpassed in the country. Particular attention paid to printing all kinds of Blanks. Orders for work promptly attended to when accompanied with Cash. "EXCELLENCE" is our motto.

spond, it carries nothing of mine with it either way, and I am, therefore, not biased by my interests. And I look upon this convulsion and trouble with unfeigned amazement, as reckless, needless, wanton cowardice. The business men of this country at this hour are suffering from a contagious cowardice! The whole continent is unstrung by nothing but fear—Nothing, I say, for that of which I speak by-and-by, and which is the ultimate cause of this iniquitous evil, was not of any such proportions of power as to justify any such breadth of effect; and fear has been added to real trouble in such unwarrantable proportions that it is scarcely immaterial to say that we are all lightning-struck with fear.

And the cure, if it could be taken, might be effectual in one day, as much as in a month or a year. Hope and trust to-morrow would set the blood going again, and bring color to white faces. For the mischief is not in the business, but in the business men—it is not in your affairs, but in you.

The country is like a ship under a stiff gale in a rolling sea; in the watch of night the man at the wheel and the watch think they see a ghost, and abandoning their post, they run gibbering and tumbling headlong down the hatchway. The ship falls off and rolls in the trough of the sea, until if some one does not help her, she will roll her masts out, or come upon her beam ends. But if there be a heart of oak among them that can cure these frightened sailors with the thunder of imperious scorn and indignation—if they will go again upon duty, seize the wheel, set the sail, and bring the ship out of her wallowing to her course again, all will be well! And I speak my honest conviction when I say, that all which the country wants just now is manliness.

Your banks can't cure you. The government can't cure you. I come to your bedside and feel the pulse, and I pronounce the patient to be in a prostrated condition, from causeless excitement of fear, and my prescription is—let there be MEN for nurses, and give them large doses of courage, to take every hour until the blood comes to the skin, and the patient can use his feet. Then turn him out, and say, rise up, walk and work.

Mr. Beecher proceeds to point out the causes which have brought about the panic. These are, in his opinion—stock gambling and want of moral integrity in boards of directors. He ought to have added the attack of certain journalists upon both public and private credit. On the lack of moral integrity, and the necessity for it as an element of financial permanency, Mr. Beecher remarks:

A relaxation of moral integrity, and a special development of it in connection with the management of stocks, and the vast interests which they represent, have introduced an element of profligacy and untrustworthiness, which threatens to move the foundations of trust of man in man. And unless there can be the infusion of moral integrity in the transactions of business men in the immense interests represented in markets by stocks, unless these swamps can be drained, and a highway of moral integrity be cast up for them to walk on through the poisonous growths of this forest, the land will suffer season by season with malaria—and commerce will never be free from chills and fevers until tonics are used. The conscience of stock-dealers needs 'quinine'!

The board of directors, in our greatest enterprises of this kind, railroads, have permitted themselves to employ their power for selfish ends, by unscrupulous methods. I believe myself to be strictly justified when I say that the revelations of the last ten years show that, in the management of these great and useful corporations, our most eminent business men have not scrupled to do or to wink and connive at courses of conduct which involve, directly or indirectly, almost every crime against property known to our laws. I aver my solemn belief that business men, banded together, and acting as boards of direction, having pursued methods which, if a single man in his private capacity should pursue, would convict him irredeemably of crime, and crush him with ignominious punishment.

Of the sin of stock gambling he has this to say—(Let the reader bear in mind that it is equally applicable to the sin of gambling in grain):

There is no more sin in buying and selling stock than in buying or selling bank bills, or any species of property. But it is one thing to buy and sell legitimately, and another to buy and sell as gamblers do.

Many honorable men pursue an honorable business in the brokerage of stocks. But it is quite notorious that millions and thousands of millions of dollars of stocks are sold every month under the lawful form of the stock broker's exchange, which can be shown to differ in no moral or material aspect from undisguised gambling. It is not necessary to enter minutely into the distinctions between right and wrong in buying or selling of stocks.

It is enough to say, that he who buys stock as a bona fide method of investing his funds, looking for dividends, or for some benefit from the interest represented by the stocks, buys legitimately and without moral blame. But that whole scheme of buying stocks for no other purpose than to make money upon the bet that they will rise or that they will fall, is a scheme of gambling. Men that do it are gamblers. All the soft names on earth cannot be dissolved to make a varnish strong enough to cover the real wickedness. Men will resent the imputation. No man likes to be called a gambler. But the way to avoid the title is to avoid the thing.

It is supposed that there are one thousand and million dollars invested in railway property. Can this mountain of power be used against good morals, against commercial prudence, and the country not reel and stagger?

Can this prodigious weight be cast rudely hither and thither upon the deck, and the keel level? There is not an honest man in the land, patiently conducting a legitimate business, who is not in the power of

these irregular forces. There can be no permanent security if financiers can, at pleasure, draw up such enormous elements of power, and hold them suspended, like water spouts, to burst and flood down desolation the moment they are touched with misfortune. And if commercial men will not draw tight the reins of morals upon these unprincipled men, they will have their own neglect to thank for the mischiefs which will have come upon them in some sense by their connivance.

The Grave of James Madison Opened—How the Corpse Looked.

The Richmond South gives an interesting account of the opening of the grave of Jas. Madison, for the purpose of laying the foundation of a monument to his memory. Here is a description of the monument:

"The monument is of James river granite, in the form of an obelisk, and as graceful and appropriate as anything could be. It is composed of seven pieces of stone, two of which measure five feet seven, and weigh over nine thousand pounds; two other four feet by two feet, weigh over six thousand pounds; another three thousand pounds; and another thirteen feet long, twenty-five inches at its base and thirteen inches at the top, weighs one thousand pounds. The gross weight of the entire monument is about 32,000 pounds. It rises just twenty-four feet above the level of the burying-ground. The height of the monument proper is just twenty-two feet six inches, but the foundation on which it rests being raised some eighteen inches above the surface, adds much to the apparent height of the monument. About nine feet from the base is chiseled the following inscription:

MADISON,
Born March 16, 1751,
Died June 28, 1836.

The appearance of the coffin and corpse is thus described:

"In digging for a suitable foundation, it became necessary to go below the coffin, which was consequently exposed to view. The boards placed above the coffin had decayed, but no earth had fallen in upon it, and everything appeared to be as when the coffin was deposited there, except that the coffin lid was slightly out of place, allowing a partial view of the interior. As there was no fastenings to prevent, the part of the lid covering the superior portion of the body was raised, and the several gentlemen present looked in upon the remains of the great Virginian. The coffin itself, of black walnut, was in perfect preservation, and the interior was nearly filled with a species of moss, which adhered pertinaciously to the wood.

Beneath this, and partially hidden by it, were a few of the larger and harder bones. The lower jaw had fallen away, the bones of the breast and the ribs were gone, and the only parts of the skeleton which remained were the skull and portions of the cheek bones, the vertebrae of the neck, the spine, and the large bones of the arm. All else of the upper part of the body had returned to the dust from whence it was taken, and in a few years more every trace of the body will disappear, until the trump of the resurrection shall reunite the scattered particles. The body had been interred just twenty-one years.

On reaching sufficiently firm ground, the foundation was commenced, and built up as two walls, one on either side of the coffin, until a proper height was gained, when it was arched over the coffin, and then built up solidly to the surface—thus forming a vault, within which rests the remains of Madison, and precisely beneath the monument. The foundation was made of hard surface stone, gathered on the Montpelier farm, from within a short distance of the graveyard.

The "Hero of India."

Gen. Havelock, whose recent feats in India have made his name familiar to our readers, was born near Sunderland, in England, in 1795, and is consequently 62 years of age. He studied for the bar, but by the advice of a brother, and through his interest, he obtained a commission as lieutenant, soon after the battle of Waterloo. In 1823 he went to India, where he first saw active service. In 1827 he published a history of the Ava Campaigns. In 1838, after having served 23 years as a subaltern, he was appointed major, by brevet, for service in battle. He remained in India till 1849, being in active duty all the time, and then returned to England, after an absence of 25 years. In 1851 he went back to India. He went with the army to Persia, and on the way back was wrecked off the coast of Ceylon. Upon his arrival at Calcutta he was appointed to the command of the army, with which he attacked and defeated Nena Sahib. In all his service in India, a period of over thirty years, he has never been wounded. His brother, Col. Wm. Havelock, was killed in a battle with the Sikhs, in 1845.

The Hard Times.

Within a fortnight, hundreds of mechanics employed in the extensive foundries and ship-yards have been discharged, because of the inability of the proprietors to obtain means to pay them. Over two hundred were discharged last week from the Novelty Works, and nearly the same number from the Morgan Iron Works, though there is an abundance of work to be done. At Secor's, and Neptune Works, too, the number of employees has been largely reduced. Most of the shipyards present a state of inactivity, and even those which have vessels to build have discharged many of their oldest and best workmen. Messrs. Singer & Co., manufacturers of sewing machines, discharged about 150 workmen on Saturday evening, as they understood, for a few weeks, or until the present financial crisis shall have passed over.—N. Y. Tribune.

A good conscience is better than two witnesses; it will consume your grief as the sun dissolves ice. It is a spring when you are thirsty—a staff when you are weary—a screen when the sun burns—and a pillow in death.

Climatology of the United States.

The diversity of climate in the United States, as compared with any country of Europe, furnishes the American student of climatology with materials for investigation of remarkable variety. Since the year 1819 the results of meteoric observations have been accumulating in scientific institutions at Washington and elsewhere, sometimes constituting very accurate series. Such records were voluminously collected by Prof. Eddy to aid his researches into the theory of storms, and by the Smithsonian Institute during its more recent inquiries. The existence of these materials suggested to Mr. Blodgett a thorough discussion of the climatology of the United States. The labor requisite to produce a trustworthy work from such varied and often conflicting sources, comprising first, the verification of the records and the elimination of errors that might have crept into them, and next, their combination into expressions which should indicate the average temperature, quantity of rain, the character and direction of storms, winds, etc., can hardly be imagined by persons not familiar with the methods of natural science.

The distinction of a very marked character which exists between the parts of the continent separated by the Rocky Mountains, has hardly been recognized hitherto in descriptions of the climate of North America. Only those characteristics which belong to the area east of the great plains are usually ascribed to it, and the homogenous phenomena occurring over that great extent of surface constitute the European idea of the North American climate. It is now known, however, that the difference between the Atlantic and Pacific districts is very great. Very lately the distinction made between the climate of the old world and that of the new, was to call the former continental, and the latter oceanic; the climate of our whole country being assumed from that of the eastern States and the valley of the Mississippi. There was reason for this distinction, because the condition of the Pacific coast and the interior was then unknown; but it is now certain that arid and continental climates are as well marked here as in the old world.

The distinction formerly drawn between the Atlantic States and the Mississippi valley, in respect of climate, is no longer regarded, as the progress of observation has shown them to be essentially alike. No important facts exist entitling them to a separate classification. Both are subject to great and similar extremes; both at some seasons have distinct continental features, and at others characteristics of tropical climates equally strongly marked. The peculiarity of this area is its adaptation to a wide range of animal and vegetable life. Its temperatures are extreme, but not destructive, embracing the summer heats of the tropics, with a profusion of rain, succeeded by cold of great severity. The result is the acclimation of plants and animals in great variety. This is the distinction, if not the advantage of the United States, as compared with western Europe. The temperature of the States between the Ohio and the Gulf of Mexico is considerably above that of many portions of the tropical seas, but associated in other respects with the peculiar features of the temperate climates—with equally distributed yet abundant rains, and with a high curve of daily change. "It is," says Mr. Blodgett, "simply an excess of temperature and of humidity, engrafted on, without otherwise changing, the characteristic laws elsewhere belonging to much lower temperatures."

The excess of summer temperature in the United States appears more decidedly peculiar, because it is in such striking contrast with that of European summer. Its proper comparison is with China, the districts of the Black Sea, or the northern valleys of India. China is very little known, but there is reason to believe that the correspondence is complete. The mean temperature of Nankasski, in Japan, and Canton, do not differ materially from those of Charleston and Key West, respectively. A distinct continental climate would result from the excess of heat in the southern States, if it were not accompanied by profuse rains and a degree of humidity, softening its features and sometimes instituting tropical uniformity. Fruits of delicate structure, including most grapes, are decided sufferers from this peculiarity, and it is a permanent difficulty in the way of successful vine-cultivation in all the district described.

The area embraced by this uniform climate is very large, including all the continent east of the western boundary of Kansas and Nebraska, with the exception of points of local influence at the coast and near the great lakes. Its whole surface may practically be regarded as level and but little elevated; and the mountains which occur, break in upon the climate only by the changes caused by altitude. In consequence of this uniformity, meteoric oscillations of every sort strike over the eastern United States, as over a plane surface, and knowing what they are at a few places, we may easily infer what they have been at all. For instance, if an extreme of cold occurs at St. Louis, and two days after at Philadelphia, we may be sure that the intervening points have been similarly affected. This fact renders the United States a country particularly favorable to the study of climatology.

Climatic movements, disturbances and changes of every sort move across the country from west to east, as though they were incidental to the westerly winds prevailing most of the area, and are felt on the Atlantic border from one to three days after their initiations at the 100th meridian, when they begin so far west. A certain meteoric movement may not be identifiable over the whole country, but in case of any unusual disturbance, the entire area is certain to participate more or less in the attendant phenomena. There can be no better proof of the uniformity of the field over which the mass of our atmosphere, and the elements of heat, moisture and magnetism pass through their succession of changes, than that afforded by our great winter storms.

The leading element of climate, about which all others are arranged, is temperature, and the low extremes of temperature

are of most importance because of their relation to the cultivation of American staples. At the same time scarcely less interest and pertinence attach to the instances of excessive drought in the history of the United States.

All these points, and numerous others of almost equal prominence, are thoroughly discussed in this volume, the great merit of which is its practical character. The complicated citations of authorities and the statistical portions are put by themselves, and the text is chiefly devoted to practical deductions. In regard to the fitness of the climate of the United States for the cultivation of tropical staples, Mr. Blodgett says:

"The vigor given to vegetation in cold climates by the rapid increase of temperature, apparently as a single phenomenon, is well known, and the peculiarity of the climate here is that this great stimulus is thrown upon tropical forms, producing the highest measure of productiveness for this reason."

"The first cultivated staple in value, and in the directness of its climatological relations, is Indian corn; next are tobacco, cotton, sugar cane, rice, indigo and hemp, though the last is of doubtful success here in the tropical form, or in case of the Sisal hemp. The common hemp belongs to temperate latitudes, and the various succulent, fibrous-leaved plants, from which the other varieties are derived, will undoubtedly grow freely in various parts of the Gulf coast, though now little cultivated. The vine and several fruits belong in the same connection also; oranges, olives, figs and pomegranates of full tropical associations, and the peach, as the most important native of the transition zone. To these the annual vines, as they are here called, melons, pumpkins and others, add a very decisive proof of the tropical heat of the American summer, and form a distinction where even the olive and the orange fail."

"The country near Fort Snelling abounds in these more decisively than any part of the European shore of the Mediterranean, and where the orange and olive come to perfection, and find a safe winter climate. The high brief heat which these require is as certain here at Fort Snelling and in Canada, as at Naples and in Syria. When the native districts of the various species of cucurbitacea are called to mind, all of which are in India and Africa, the growth of the melon and pumpkin as field crops in the astonishing profusion they often exhibit north of Lake Ontario, and on the plains of the Upper Mississippi and Missouri, furnishes a striking item in proof of the contrast with Europe in capacity to develop plants of tropical origin."

"The highly stimulating increase of heat characterizes all the native vegetation, and the cultivation particularly, here, while the degree is high and constant enough to make the production singularly rich. Sugar is the most abundant product, and it belongs to many variable vegetable forms. The stem or stalk of Indian corn abounds in it nearly as much as that of sugar cane, and if it could be separated and clarified readily, a heavy growth of corn would yield nearly as much as a cane field of the same area. Stems of grasses, and all graminaceous plants, show the same tendency, and there is the greatest abundance of sugar in melons and other cucurbitaceous fruits. On the plains in the Mississippi valley this tendency to development of saccharine matter is more striking than elsewhere, and it cannot fail to be noticed in almost every vegetable cultivated for any nutritive use. It is an associate of the rich curve of summer development there, as it may be called, which has only a higher degree than in the Atlantic States in the same latitude, and it constitutes a decisive distinction from the climates where the leading elements of vegetable nutrition put on other forms, and those of a less complete character."

"The peculiar staples which attain the highest perfection in the United States are moulded by these general features, and not more by the tropical measure of summer heat than by the sub-arctic cold of winter. They are of sudden growth, exuberant and profuse in every respect. The forest trees come suddenly in leaf, and all that belongs to foliaceous growth is equally sudden and luxuriant. The nutritive elements are developed next on the same scale of profusion, and the predominant form of these is as decidedly saccharine as in the tropics. All that belongs to the ripening stage is similar, the essential oils, and the concentrated elements of seeds and fruits, whether nutritive or aromatic. The interior of the Eastern continent, in the transition climates near the Mediterranean, affords the highest development of these ripened forms and one much beyond that of the United States, it is true, but here all products blend in a climate developing great profusion first; and a tendency to high perfection in all the ripening processes, which a little care might make scarcely less rich in its results than the best districts of the Mediterranean.—The most favorable close of summer and autumn belonging to our variable seasons has scarcely a parallel in its fruitfulness, even in any of the transition climates of the old world."

His remarks on the cereals, grasses, vine and sugar-cane are not less instructive. Of our great northern staple, the Indian corn, he speaks as follows:

"The limit of profitable cultivation of this staple is a practical question which belongs to this consideration, and it is somewhat singular that what may be designated as its decided success is so nearly coincident with the extremes of its possible limits. It is still more extraordinary that the districts of maximum production lie so far north of the native latitudes, and really near the northern extreme of its position. In New York, the Southern New England States, and Ohio, or from the forty-second to the forty-third parallel, the maximum of production of this staple is attained, and this maximum is of the entire sum of its growth—leaf, nutritive matter in the stem and grain."

"Though the stem is of less size than further south, there is a greater weight of it grown on equal areas, and the grain is in equal excess. A rich spot of land will show,

in a favorable season in these northern districts where the summer mean temperature is not above 65 degrees, four or five times the quantity produced at the south where the mean is above 80 degrees. In part this may be due to soil and to productive varieties, but it is mainly due to the summer curve of temperature—the hasty growth, the excess of heat while it lasts, and the hastened ripening period. Continued heat without this curvature prolongs the growth in a way to modify the species in the direction of the original form of a succulent tropical grass, and it there becomes a cane more nearly than in the colder latitudes."

"The existence of this maximum of productive capacity in the cooler district is of more practical interest perhaps to the southern than the northern districts, since it shows that the increase of value of southern lands, and the introduction of staples of peculiar adaptation and of the highest value, the growth of this grain may profitably be transferred to northern localities. To a certain limit of latitude, cotton and the cane, with perhaps the fibrous tropical plants and others, may occupy the cultivated territory to greater profit than any of the grains.—The sugar cane is the natural successor of Indian corn in semi-tropical districts; its analogies of growth and its development of saccharine matter are nearly the same, and with the greater heat and humidity of some portions of the United States the product of grain certainly falls off, and the corn-plant loses its extraordinary power of expansion and excessive production. It is highly probable that the introduction of the best possible staples in our warmer districts will make the transfer of maize northward possible and desirable, and when transferred above the thirty-third parallel, if this should be done, there will be an immense area over which it is, under circumstances, the most prolific and profitable crop possible, regarded as a source of nutritive supply."

The Poetry of the Asparagus.

The delicate asparagus derives its name from the Greek (*asparagos*), a young shoot not yet opened into leaf. Is there not much beauty in a bed of asparagus run to seed? The tall, slender, feathery green sprays, with their shining, bead-like berries, have an air of great elegance, especially when begemmed by the morning dew. Asparagus was first cultivated in England about 1662. Some species of the wild asparagus are still found in Wales, in the Isle of Portland, and near Bristol. Tavernier mentions having found some enormous asparagus on the banks of the Euphrates; and Pliny mentions asparagus cultivated at Revena, three of which would weigh a pound.

Asparagus is an especial favorite with our Gallic neighbors. Of the French philosopher, Fontenelle, an anecdote is related, which shows how completely his *gourmandise* could conquer all natural emotions of the mind.

One day a brother literat, with whom he had lived in habits of friendship for many years, came to dine with him. The principal part of the meal was to consist of asparagus, of whom both host and guest were extremely fond, but they differed in their tastes as to the mode of dressing it; the latter preferred it with butter, the former with oil. After some discussion, they came to a compromise; the cook was ordered to make two equal divisions, and to dress one share with oil, and the other with butter. This knotty point being settled, the friends entered into some literary conversation. In the height of their discourse, the guest fell from his chair, suddenly struck with apoplexy. Fontenelle hastily summoned all the necessary assistance, but in vain; for, despite of every exertion to restore him, the invalid expired. What were the reflections of our French philosopher on this abrupt and melancholy termination of a long studious friendship? Awe? Sorrow? Religious aspirations? No! but a happy recollection that now his own taste could be fully gratified, without the necessity of any deference to another. He left the corpse, and running to the head of the stairs, called out to his cook—"Dress it all with oil—all with oil!" "Tout à l'huile—tout à l'huile!" It is not surprising that a man so exempt from the wear and tear of human emotions as Fontenelle, lived to be upwards of ninety-nine years of age. He was for forty years Secretary of the Academy of Sciences, and died in 1758.

Wild asparagus was held in reverence by the Iodæes, a colony in Caria, in remembrance of their ancestor, Perigone. She was the daughter of Sinis, a robber of gigantic stature, dwelling in the Peloponnesus, who was surnamed the Pine-bender, from the species of cruelty he practised on all whom he defeated. He used to bend down two pines till they met; then tie a leg and an arm of the captive to each tree, and suddenly let the pines fly back to their natural position, the unfortunate victim was torn asunder. This monster was conquered by Theseus, and put to death in his own manner. On his defeat, his young daughter, Perigone, fled and hid herself amid a brake of wild asparagus, praying the plants, in childish simplicity, to conceal her, and promising never to root them up, or burn them. She lay among them so well sheltered, that she escaped discovery by Theseus, till she was induced, by the conciliatory tones in which he called upon her in his researches, to come forward to him. He subsequently married her, and their grandson, Ioxus, founded in Caria a colony who kept in memory a pledge of Perigone to the plants that had given her refuge.

The wild asparagus being full of prickles, yet agreeable and wholesome to eat. Its sprays were used by the Bœtians as wedding garlands, to signify to the bride that, as she has given her lover trouble wooing her, so she ought to recompense him by the pleasantness of her manners in wedded life.—*Dublin University Magazine*.

A biography of Robespierre, published in a late Irish paper, concludes with the following remarkable sentence:

"This extraordinary man left no children behind him except his brother, who was killed at the same time."